

SOMS PTA MINUTES

November 17, 2009

Meeting came to order at 7:40pm.

Food Service Representative – E. Goodman of Whitson’s gave a brief talk on new food service in cafeteria

- Ms. Goodman has 20 years experience in industry; previously worked for Aramark
- Whitson’s started as catering company and believes in providing high quality, good tasting food in alignment with the school districts Wellness policy.
- Main goal is to provide healthy food the kids will want to eat.
- All bread is whole wheat, including pizza dough.
- Daily menus include pizza, salad bar, deli (Boar’s Head product), vegetarian option and hot meal
- Number of children buying lunch is quite high.
- Every child has an ID in the system and it is entered whether they use the Meal Pay Plus system or pay with cash. Kids took a little time to acclimate to system but things are running smoothly now.
- Accommodations around food allergies and other dietary restrictions are easily implemented. At the cashier’s station, the cashier is alerted if the child has a registered food allergy or restriction in the system and will help the child be sure their selections are in line with the restrictions indicated.
- Meal Pay Plus system allows parents to pre-pay and child just need their ID Code to pay. Parent is notified when balance is running low. At end of year, left over money can stay in account for next year and account follows child from school to school.
- Mr. Sullivan noted that they have noticed a drop in the amount of food garbage at the end of the lunch periods. Could be an indication kids are happier with food.
- Ms. Tesik noted that she has been very pleased with the service and the fact that the food is prepared on premises.
- Monthly menu is posted on website in user friendly form.
- Ms. Goodman complimented us on the children.
- Mr. Sullivan suggested that since the data is in the system it would be helpful to parents if they could see what their child is buying and eating every day. Ms. Goodman said she would look into it.
- Whitson’s runs a “guest chef” program in the High School – in November it was stir fry.

President’s Report – Evan Karzhevsky

- Motion to approve minutes from October meeting made by Mary Paul. Minutes unanimously approved.
- Suggestion Box – Evan will follow up on all suggestions. Concerned about anonymous notes so will ask for contact information.

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Principal's Report – Karen Tesik

- Head Lice
 - Sent out eblast regarding a case of head lice in the school but did not know which grade the child was in.
 - Harder to control/track than in lower grades but will communicate with parents whenever they are aware of an instance.
- Good Choices – as a parent group we need to address and communicate to all parents on the school so they will be aware of and talk to their kids about:
 - Rumors of instances of “smoking smarties”, Mr. Sullivan found a YouTube video showing kids how to do it.
 - Morning show “The Doctors” also talked about kids crushing and “smoking” Hot Cheetos and snorting the powdered form of energy drinks.
 - These actions can lead to serious health consequences.
 - If anyone knows of a pediatrician who would be interested in speaking at a PTA meeting about these issues, please contact Evan Karzhevsky.
- H1N1 – Ms. Tesik does not have this data, it is the responsibility of the school nurse.
 - Parents can go on website, log in to attendance and see how many have “flu-like symptoms”. Data is usually one day behind and “raw”.
 - Faculty ladies room on 1st floor has no hot water but Purell dispenser will be installed.
 - Purell dispensers are in the cafeteria.
- Yearbook
 - Can be ordered on line.
 - Directions and ID will be sent home with report cards.
 - Can be personalized with name and “logo”. Personalization can only be done online.
 - Does PTA help with yearbook purchases if needed?
- Parent Portal – log in directions with ID and Password will be sent home with report cards. SOMS will have a conversation with BLT about mailing report cards.
- In early stages of looking at creating Gifted and Talented clusters. Would require additional staff development.
- Basketball hoop will be delivered 11/23 and installation will follow.
- “Meeting Needs of Diverse Learners” is now available online.

Dan Sullivan

- DC Trip – items ordered through fundraiser went home 11/17. Amount raised was \$19,000 (40% of cost of trip). This is an increase of \$6,000 when compared to 2008 and is \$4,000 than 2007.
 - Excess money remains with class, last year \$3,100 went up with current 9th graders and will go to help with costs of Prom, etc. for their grade.

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- Approximately 7 students were not able to go last year because of behavior issues during the year.
- Approximately 50 students chose not to attend.
- Meeting in March for 8th grade parents.
- First time in many years that no 8th grade student is currently under early warning regarding behavior and eligibility for trip. No student with multiple referrals.
- There are 882 students in the school and to date only 22 or 23 have gotten referrals. Tone of respect in school is in a great place.

Treasurer's Report

- Received bill for Enrichment Program which impacted costs.
- Costs of 6th Grade party will be included in report at next meeting in January.
- Taxes – filing requirements are based on gross revenue. Gross revenues of \$25,000 or greater require filing of a Form 990, we only had gross revenue of \$23,059 so we do not have to file Form 990.

Board of Ed Meeting Report – Rosemary Petruzilli

- Presentation of school board policies
- Adopt PTA policies
- Go away from BOCES
- Encourage everyone to take survey. Space at end for comments. Open until the end of November.
- New Business
 - K-12 Sleep deprivation & depression

PTA Council Report – Lynn Gorey

- Curriculum – tri-state teachers will be able to track students through website from school to school.
- \$4,712 in bank.
- Report cards and flu shot clinic went well.
- May be doing another round of flu shots November 30th

Committees

Special Events – Joy Ruggiero

- Halloween Parade
 - 322 students participated.
 - Thanks to Michelle Clements for handling most of the details.
 - Was fair and fun.
 - Chose homemade costumes.
- Fall Party
 - Made \$613.
 - 325 students attended

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- Didn't have raffles
- Where was the money made last year?
- Ordered way too much pizza
- A lot of leftover baked goods – donated to Ms. Shaw.
- Some dangerous behavior – slamming into walls.
- Encourage more parent volunteers both in gym and halls.
- Usually 8 staff chaperones.
- If a parent is uncomfortable speaking to a student, they can ask a staff member to do it but more eyes and ears are needed.
- Discussion ensued regarding DJ's, activities, etc.

Reflections

Membership Report

- 304 members.
- Directory and membership cards were distributed via backpack.
 - Ann Swann stated that her name and email were incorrect in directory.

Box Tops - \$184 rose thus far this year.

Performing Arts

Gifted and Talented

Founder's Day

- 11/20 deadline for nominations.
- Form went home in backpacks and there is a link on the district website.
- Revenue from flu shot clinics should cover costs

Enrichment

Grant Committee

- Application process brought to Dr. Mitchell and members of the board for approval.
- District guidelines will align with district goals.
- Procedure hasn't been finalized but a preliminary version of the application is available and will be accepted knowing we may go back for more information.

Fundraising

- Back to School Spirit sales generated \$1,290 in profit
- Holiday sale underway, close to \$1,000 already.
- Tie-dye long sleeve T and scarf are good sellers
- Orders accepted through January.
- Thanks to Anne Marie Kugelman, Maureen Aitchison and Michelle Arroyo

Nominating Committee

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- Must have 5 members, 3 from Executive Board and 2 from general PTA membership

Next meeting will be 01/11/10

Meeting adjourned at 9pm.